

OUR NEW SERIAL.

“THE CHASE OF THE RUBY.”

A Novel of most absorbing interest, and full of thrilling situations. . . .

BY

RICHARD MARSH

(Author of “Mrs. Musgrave and Her Husband,” “In Full Cry,” “The Beetle,” “The Joss: a Reveraion,” etc.)

WILL COMMENCE IN THESE COLUMNS NEXT WEEK.

MR MARSH is a writer of remarkable inventive genius and possesses in an extraordinary degree that power of fascination which compels a reader, having once commenced the story, to continue to the end. But apart from the weird creepiness of his tales they possess such a vein of attractive humour as redeems them from the charge of being merely sensational.

“THE CHASE OF THE RUBY”

is a story of thrilling interest. The plot centres round a ruby ring, in the recovery of which two cousins have a competitive interest to the extent of a quarter of a million. By his uncle's will, this fortune has been left to Guy Holland on consideration of his recovering the ring, which the uncle has parted with to an actress, within a certain period, failing which the money goes to his cousin Harold Burton. The conditions are the more difficult in that Guy has at one time been engaged to May Bewicke, the possessor of the ring, who still has a regard for him, while he is now in love with and practically engaged to the daughter of a rich merchant. It would be impossible to detail the plot and counterplot of the narrative is full. Guy's attempt, at the jealous instigation of his sweetheart though against his conscience, to “take his own” by burglarious means; his surprise in the act; the murderous attack upon him as he comes away, which is only the first of his cousin's unscrupulous attempts to foil his efforts; the hero's disappearance and his sweetheart's distracted search, are all vividly described. But the most breathless period is during the battle royal in Miss Bewicke's flat where Burton with two accomplices has entered in search of the ring. The actress, united in common cause with her rival in search of Guy, comes on the scene unexpectedly, and the developments are such as to render the reader entirely oblivious to his surroundings. An already powerful situation is added to by the finding of Guy Holland unconscious in one of the rooms, and Miss Bewicke's spirited maid, who has played a notable part in the earlier stages, also unconscious as the result of a drug. The tale is cleverly rounded and the reader is sure to be well satisfied with the final result.

SOME REVIEWS.

THE SPEAKER.—“A story of the most terrific kind is duly recorded in this extremely powerful book. The skill with which its fantastic horrors are presented to us is undeniable.”

THE AUSTRALASIAN.—“Mr Marsh is a master in the art of constructing enthralling plots that compel the reader's attention until the solution of the mystery comes in the last chapter.”

THE ACADEMY.—“‘Dracula,’ by Mr Bram Stoker, was creepy, but Mr Marsh goes one, oh! many more than one, better. This surprising and ingenious story succeeds in producing that sensation of horror which should make the flesh of even the least susceptible reader creep.”

THE GLASGOW HERALD.—“The weird horror of this beetle grows upon the reader. It is difficult, if not impossible, to lay down the book when once begun.”

OPENING CHAPTERS NEXT WEEK.

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WANGANDI GIRLS' COLLEGE.

FIRST TERM, 1908.

THE FIRST TERM, 1908, will commence on MONDAY, 2nd February.

The accommodation for Boarders, which is limited, is filling up. Early application is therefore necessary.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the Governors have just completed at a cost of more than £2000, the erection of an Addition, in brick, consisting of two Class Rooms and a Sick Room, with every convenience.

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W. J. CARSON, Secretary.

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Society Gossip

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, January 2 PARNELL TENNIS AND CROQUET LAWNS.

The heavy rain which fell from 5.30 a.m. to 6.30 a.m. on Saturday produced quite a flood on the Parnell lawns; in the morning a boat could have been floated there. It cleared up during the day, though the atmosphere in the afternoon was in that state popularly termed “muggy.” Matters were in a threatening state so far as fine weather was concerned; the clouds banked up, as if a down-pour was imminent. However, during the latter part of the afternoon, the sky took on a less angry appearance, and the sun came out, and Mrs. Thornes' and Mrs. E. C. Smith's afternoon tea on the Parnell lawns was conducted under favorable conditions. In spite of a brake-load of the Parnell tennis players having gone to Papatoitai that afternoon to play matches against the Papatoitai Club, there was still a very large attendance on the Parnell lawns. The tea table in the pavilion was prettily decorated with sweet pea in a variety of colours, and surrounded with cakes, fruit and sweets. It is noticeable that seven of the eight competitors who have entered the croquet championship competi-

tion are members of the Parnell Club. Surely the other clubs can furnish more than one competitor to do battle with this seven. They have another month to reflect over this matter, and it is hoped the result will be a greatly increased entry.

Amongst the ladies present on Saturday were: Mrs. Thornes wore a handsome gown of striped grass lawn, trimmed with bands of deep ecru lace insertion, ecru lace collar-ette, with nil green silk at neck, hat en suite, with loops of nil green ribbons, nil green parasol; Mrs. E. C. Smith, black skirt, white silk blouse, with tuckings and lace insertion, black hat; Mrs. Hunt, modish toilette of brown holland, the skirt was plain but for three shaped flounces at hem, the bodice opened in front to show a collar and shirt of white silk, and pouched over a belt with gilt buckle, flat toque, with bunches of violet flowers; Mrs. Ashley Hunter, black tailor-made skirt, smartly strapped with black silk, white pique jacket, black hat; Mrs. Shipherd, black voile tailor-made coat and skirt, black hat; Mrs. Uphill, white pique skirt, made with shaped flounce, white chine silk blouse, with tucks and ecru lace, lilac ribbon waist band, flat toque with violets; Mrs. Morris, holland costume, burnt straw hat; Mrs. W. B. Colbeck, black voile skirt, white silk blouse, with ecru lace and tuckings, hat with flowers; Miss Thomson, dark skirt, white blouse, black hat; and her sister wore a dark skirt, light blouse, sailor hat; Mrs. McConnell, black skirt, China blue figured muslin blouse, with handsome twine-coloured lace collar-ette, burnt straw toque with flowers; Mrs. Bruce, black skirt, violet figured foulard blouse, with twine-coloured lace embroidery, black hat with flowers; Mrs. Kenderdine, black skirt, white blouse, black hat; Mrs. W. Nichol, dark skirt, white chine silk blouse, with ecru lace and tuckings, black hat; Miss White, white French muslin, with pink floral design, large picture hat with flowers; and her sister wore a pale blue cambric gown, black hat with flowers; and another sister wore a white pique skirt, cream silk blouse, with tuckings and lace insertion, white hat; Miss O. Lusk, white skirt, cardinal silk blouse, with bands of ecru lace insertion let in from neck to waist, black lace frame hat, wreathed with roses; Miss Fenton, holland skirt, white silk blouse, with lace insertion and tuckings, violet velvet toque, with flowers; and her sister wore a pretty reseda green costume, hat with flowers; Mrs. Duthie, green canvas costume, the skirt had large flat tucks at hem, the bolero was composed of flat tucks, the bell sleeves were shortened to show full shirt sleeves of white silk, flat black straw hat, swathed with tulle; and her little daughter wore a grass lawn; Miss Gill, black vicuna cloth skirt, trimmed with cording and bands of taffeteen, white chine silk blouse, with tuckings and ecru lace, black hat; Mrs. Segar, Italic coloured cambric flounced skirt, the flounce

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